

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

6:00p.m.

Joint Meeting with Building Committee and School Committee

**1. Discussion and approval of revisions to Necessity of School
Construction (Board of Regents approval)**

7:00p.m.

Call to Order

The School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-chair, Anne Palumbo, Mary Ellen Winters, Merrill Friedemann, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Public Comments

Mary Jane Jansen, High Hawk Road, spoke about her daughter's 7th grade class and Cole's energy efficiency suggestions. They noticed

that the sprinkler system for the fields is on during the day and the timer should be changed to between midnight and sunrise. This will be brought to Mr. Wilmarth's attention.

3. Recognitions

The following Hanaford School students were recognized for placing first in the 2008 RI Scholastic Elementary School Chess League Competition: Harrison Timperley, C.J. Renzi, Patrick Norton, Benjamin Markstone, Dylan DePriest, Daniel DePetro, Christopher Park, and Vincent DeCesaris

The following grade 4 students at Hanaford School were recognized for placing 1st in their division at the Destination Imagination Tournament: Grace Miner, Lauren Trapani, Alyssa Kanis, David Hesthaven, John Hare, Will Campbell, and Maria Nunez

The following grade 5 students at Hanaford School were recognized for placing 2nd in their division at the DI Tournament: Paige Mattos, Noah Barreto, Keira Meiser, Rocco Petito, Sophia Almeida, Mary Larcom and Zachary Larsson

McKinley Knoop from Hanaford School was recognized for placing 1st in her division in the American History Essay sponsored by the General Nathaniel Greene Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

4. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 22 regular and Executive Sessions.

5. New Business

5.1 Resignation

5.1.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Susan Adamo, grade 5 at Eldredge School, effective 8-26-08.

284

6. Approval of Alternate Learning Program (ALP) at High School

Bonnie DiMeo, Special Education Department Head, submitted a proposal from the team at the high school to bring students now in out-of-district placements back to the high school. It was noted that the services will meet the needs of kids who need an alternate setting. There will be no additional cost to the district since the money will come out of the out-of-district budget. Paula Dillon reported that there could be eight students in this class and they will be integrated for health, physical education and lunch. It was noted that the majority of these students have significant health issues and at first they will begin school later in the morning and remain until 3:30p.m. Outside support will be available for them also, and a new psychologist will be hired to replace the current psychologist who is retiring. Mrs. Friedemann asked if there will be a job description for the new psychologist since we need an experienced person. Sharon Foley, the Social Worker for the district, will be the liaison to this program as she works closely with our psychologist. Mrs. DiMeo stated that the regular education staff needs to be on board. Mrs. Friedemann noted that transition fails without support. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Food Service Bid

Mr. Meyers asked the Committee to move forward to approve the bid for a new food service contract to maximize cost savings and efficiencies, and also consistent with the Wellness Policy. He noted that a preliminary discussion was held with Aramark. Maryanne Crawford stated that Aramark will continue to provide healthy food for kids. She also noted that we will keep the flagship program at the high school as we want the transition to be seamless. She stated that she has been pleased with our current food service workers as well as the work of Rick Giuntoli. Mrs. Palumbo feels that Aramark will meet the district's expectations. Mrs. Friedemann asked for justification from the inception of the idea to the approval process. Carolyn Dias from the Rhode Island Department of Education stated that because of the state budget deficit, they looked at several statewide efficiencies, and put out a bid. They also looked at the Wellness Program and wanted a company that would allow them to have the best nutritional meals to meet the state and federal programs. Ms. Dias stated that the RFP was posted on the website for several weeks and after that time a bidder's conference was set up. The three companies were: Aramark, Chartwells, and Sodexo. She noted that the selection was endorsed by the Architects and Engineering Committee and goes to the Director of Administration for review, endorsement and sign-off. Ms. Dias stated that this is an umbrella contract which allows districts to negotiate their own contract. She noted that the state felt that Aramark is the right choice and it offers some support to the first few districts that come on

board. There could be grants available to have people come in and see our needs, and also help systems get the point of sale system up. It was noted that it is a one year contract with four renewable years. Ms. Dias stated that rebates may also be available.

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to enter into a contract with Aramark for one year, effective July 1, 2008. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers noted that he would like to retain all current food service employees if they want to remain in East Greenwich. He added that they will be incorporated into the contract.

8. First Reading of Recycling Policy

This will increase our recycling and keep trash costs down. Mr. Meyers stated that we have shredders and a contract with Shred-It for confidential papers. This will

285

be a part of the recycling policy. We will forward the policy to the parent who has been involved from Meadowbrook and she can make suggestions and add to it. We will also put the policy out on the listserve for suggestions. Mrs. Records suggested that the containers be clearly marked as to what can and can't be recycled.

9. Second Reading of Energy Policy

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Energy Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Review Purchasing Policy

Mrs. Friedemann stated that she had a conversation with Mrs. Crawford and she will provide a list of items in the purchasing policy

which are non-negotiable. Mrs. Friedemann would like a spreadsheet to see the remainder of the funds available after salaries and contracts. Mrs. Friedemann feels that the surplus should have restrictions.

11. Warrant Article Report

Mr. Meyers stated that the warrant articles will be completed by August and there is \$575,000 remaining for three key projects. Mrs. Friedemann asked about Mr. DiSaia's continued work and Mr. Meyers responded that we reduced his service and he will be finished when all projects are completed this summer.

12. Discussion of Teacher Mini Grants

Mrs. Records had asked about a teacher of the year initiative but it was decided to have annual mini grants available for a teacher in each school. The money will be funded from the School Committee personally. Upon completion of their projects the recipients would make a presentation to the committee and be recognized at a special dinner honoring their accomplishments.

13. Financial Report

Mr. Day asked about paying game supervisors since we got rid of ticket takers. Mr. Meyers stated that we need game supervisors but not ticket takers. He also noted that we couldn't find volunteers so we still have ticket takers. Mrs. Friedemann stated that Senator Raptakis tried to introduce pay to play but the legislation was only for Coventry, allowing them to take specific donations for specific purposes. She noted that nothing has been done yet for other systems. Mr. Varrecchione will do a presentation on the cost for

sports. Mr. Day also asked about conference money being used for an administrator who is retiring. Mr. Meyers responded that conferences are a part of their contracts. Mr. Meyers also noted that every year, as part of State Aid, money is earmarked for professional development. Mr. Day also suggested that we push the billing service for Medicaid back to the town.

14. Request by Administrators for Clarification on Salary Increase and Co-Share on Insurance for 2007-2008

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to rescind the original motion giving administrators a 2.4 percent increase and 20% insurance co-pay, with a reduction of \$500 in the buy-back, for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. Mrs. Cienki stated that a motion to rescind a vote needs to carry by five members. She also stated that board members wanted to reconsider their vote or feel they acted too quickly. Mrs. Guliano stated that if 2.5% was budgeted, we should give that to administrators. Mrs. Friedemann feels there was zero ambiguity on the previous vote, and everyone has to give. She would like administrators to be employees at will. On the vote to rescind, Mrs. Records, Mrs. Cienki, Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Winters voted yes and Mr. Day and Mrs. Friedemann voted no. The motion passed. Mr. Day stated that administrators are not a union.

286

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to give administrators a 2.4% increase and a 15% co-pay, with a \$125 reduction in the buy-back, for the 2007-2008 school year and a 2.4

percent increase and a 20% co-pay, with a \$500 reduction in the buy-back for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion failed with Mr. Day, Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Winters voting yes. Mrs. Records, Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Cienki voted no.

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to give administrators a 2.5 percent increase, a 15 percent co-pay, and a \$125 reduction in the buy-back for the 2007-2008 school year, and a 2.5 percent increase, a 20%co-pay, and a \$500 reduction in the buy-back for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion failed with Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Palumbo voting yes, and Mrs. Cienki, Mrs. Winters, Mr. Day, Mrs. Friedemann, and Mrs. Records voting no.

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to give administrators a 2.4% increase, a 20% co-pay and a \$500 reduction in the buy-back for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion passed with Mr. Day, Mrs. Winters, Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Cienki voting yes and Mrs. Friedemann, Mrs. Records, and Mrs. Palumbo voting no.

15. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Guliano reported about SORICO's recent meeting.

Mr. Day reported that lights are on at the high school in the circle and front parking lot during the night.

Mrs. Winters would like to have the Seascape contract. Mr. Meyers stated that we can expect nothing less of the Town than what we received from Seascape. Mrs. Records stated that we should have an agreement with the Town as to the work they will do. Mrs. Friedemann stated that we are an arm of the town. Mr. Meyers noted that he sent the Town a draft and the School Committee needs to vote

on it.

Mrs. Ellen Shanos asked where we were with the school and town budget. Mr. Meyers relied that the Town Council will be meeting on May 7 and will vote on their budget on May 12. After those meetings, they will tell us about their percentage.

16. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary